

Chairperson: Louis Fortis, 276-2222
Clerk: Carol Mueller, 278-4228
Research Analyst: Julie Esch 278-4430

Parks Advisory Commission

Tuesday, April 8, 2008 - 3:00 P.M.

**219 North Milwaukee Avenue, 7th Floor
(Public parking available across the street)**

MINUTES

Scheduled Items:

PRESENT: Rafael Acevedo, Jr., John Gurda, F. William Haberman, Henry Hamilton III and Daniel Steininger - 5

EXCUSED: Penelope Stewart - Louis Fortis 2

ALTERNATE: Nancy Davlantes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:10 p.m. A roll call was taken with five members present and two excused as noted above.

2. Approval of minutes from February 27, 2008

This item will be taken up at the next meeting along with the minutes from this meeting.

3. Discussion of the Tax Matrix report

Appearances:

Julie Esch, County Board Research Analyst

Vince Masterson, Department of Administration Fiscal and Budget Analyst

Ms. Esch gave a brief overview, noting that most taxes listed are currently being collected and going into the State General Fund. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the various kind of taxes on the matrix. Fluctuation in collections of any taxes waiver with the economy. Whatever is suggested, the result will be to get the Parks permanently off the property tax rolls.

Major maintenance issues were also discussed. Day-to-day maintenance is on a cash basis and is not eligible for bond financing. Mr. Masterson clarified there are specific laws governing the criteria for bonds. A commission member thought It would be wise to create a stabilization fund to build a reserve.

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

Questions regarding a public hearing were voiced including the following: How do we acquire public support for saving the parks? If a public hearing is held, how do we present the critical urgency of the deterioration of the Park's? Will the use of graphics, experts, friends groups and the business community, help support or hurt our cause? Will the policy makers embrace the commission's findings?

The members would like Ms. Esch to compile a list of all the Friends of the Parks groups to be available for the next meeting.

Mr. Steininger suggested obtaining some expert advice to assist the Commission on how to proceed. He is going to try to have a public relations speaker available for the next meeting.

Prior to proceeding with a course of action, the Commission Chair should discuss any recommendations or consensus with the County Board Chairman.

4. Ongoing discussion on options available to the Commission and the feasibility of them

Mr. Steininger will submit some suggested items for discussion.

5. Future meeting dates and items for discussion

At this time, a future meeting date will be dependent on the cycle of the new County Board. Availability will depend on the County Board schedule that will be presented after the April 21, 2008 organizational meeting of the County Board.

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Vince Masterson, Fiscal and Budget Analyst, DAS

Supervisor Gerry Broderick, District 3

Mr. Daniel Diliberti, Milwaukee County Treasurer

Ms. Julie Esch, Research Analyst

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 p. m.

Carol Mueller, Committee Clerk

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